

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /049 W

----- 081842

R 131733Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 521

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1680

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 01520

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND,ETRD,EEC

SUBJECT: STEEL: STEEL PRODUCTIN AND NEW ORDERS IN 1975

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1154

1. THE MISSION HAS OBTAINED OFFICIAL EC FIGURES FOR EC STEEL PRODUCTION AND NEW ORDERS IN 1975 EC STEEL PRODUCTION IN 1975 WAS 125.3MILLION METRIC TONS (M.T.) DOWN FROM 155.6 MILLION METRIC TONS IN 1974 (-19.5 PERCENT) AND DOWN FROM 150.1 MILLION M.T IN 1973 (-16.5 PERCENT) THE PREVIOUS YEAR IN WHICH EC STEEL PRODUCTION REACHED SUCH JOW LEVELS WAS IN 1968 (125 MILLION M.T.). OVERALL,THE EC STEEL INDUSTRY WAS PRODUCINT AT 65.5 PERCENT OF MAXIMUM CAPACITY.

2. THE CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTIN BY MEMBER STATES (MILLION METRIC TONS)IS AS FOLLOWS:

	1975	1974	PERCENT
GERMANY	40.4	53.2	-24.1
FRANCE	21.5	27.	-20.3
ITALY	21.9	23.9	-8.1
NETHERLANDS	4.8	5.8	-17.4
BELGIUM	11.6	16.2	-28.6
LUXEMBOURG	4.6	6.4	-28.3
UK	19.8	22.3	-11.4
DENMARK	.6	.5	PLUS 4.1

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IRELAND .08 .11 -25.5

EC 125.3 155.6 -19.5

3. THERE FOLLOW THE EC COMMISSION'S PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR B BOTH DECEMBER AND 1975 REGARDING ORDERS PLACED WITH THE EC STEEL INDUSTRY FOR FINISHED LAMINATED PRODUCTS AND END PRODUCTS AS WELL AS FOR INGOTS,SEMI-FINISHED PRODUCTS AND COILS. (SPECIAL STEEL ARE NOT INCLUDED.)

IN MILLION METRIC TONS:

	ORDERS FROM THE ECSC	ORDERS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES	TOTAL
DEC. 1975	6.9	.8	7.7
NOW. 1975	6.3	.9	7.2

PERCENTAGE

CHANGE	PLUS 9.9	-9.	PLUS 7.5D
DEC. 1974	5.4	1.9	7.3
DECM 1974/75	PLUS 26.7 PER.	-55.4 PER.	PLUS 5.7 PER.
1975	70.1	16.3	83.3
1974	86.9	21.2	108.0
PERCENTAGE	-19.4	-23.1	-20.1

4. WE NOTE THAT THE ORDERS IN DECEMBER WERE 9.9 PERCENT ABOVE THOSE FOR NOVEMBER 1975,NOT 9.9 PERCENT ABOVE ORDERS FOR DECEMBER 1974 AS REPORTED IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL. THE COMPARISON WITH DECEMBER 1975FOR ORDERS FROM WITHIN THE EC ACTUALLY SHOWS A SOLID 26.7 PERCENT INCREASE. HOWEVER,THE DRAMATIC DROP IN THIRD COUNTRY ORDERS, 55.4 PERCENT,REDUCES THE TOTAL INCREASE IN ORDERS OVER DECEMBER 1974 TO 5.7 PERCENT. A CONTACT AT THE FRENCH PERM REP TOLD US THAT THE FRENCH FEAR THAT DESPITE THE RISE IN DEMAND FOR STEEL WITHIN THE EC,THE LACK OF DEMAND ON THE WORLD MARKET WILL BE REFLECTED IN DOMESTIC OVERSUPPLY AND HAVE A DAMPENING EFFECT ON PRICES.
MORRIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, DATA, STEELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU01520
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760057-0163
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760252/aaaabtbu.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 EC BRUSSELS 1154
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: housmasa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by housmasa>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STEEL: STEEL PRODUCTIN AND NEW ORDERS IN 1975
TAGS: EIND, ETRD, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006